

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of effecting commerce, comprising steps of:
 - (a) providing a first means comprising at least one actual physically embodied supplier of products/services, in which a customer can receive from among a plurality of products/services;
 - (b) providing second means comprising display means and input means for interacting with a customer;
 - (c) maintaining an electronic-commerce (e-commerce) server system, comprising:
 - i. first storing means for storing data representing an inventory of products/services offered by said one actually embodied supplier at said first means;
 - ii. second storing means for storing data representing information related to customers;
 - iii. means for communicating information in said first storing means and said second storing means over a communication network.
 - (d) providing a communication network, whereby said second means and said electronic-commerce server system are connected and may communicate with each other;
 - (e) a customer using said second means to communicate with said electronic-commerce server system to place an order for products/services from said at least one actual physically embodied supplier;
 - (f) delivering said order to a location designated by said customer.
2. A method of claim 1, wherein said first means is a shopping mall.
3. A method of claim 1, wherein said first means is a commercial district shopping center.

4. A method of claim 1, wherein said second means are set up in a collective manner at said first means.
5. A method of claim 1, wherein said second means are set up in a distributive manner at said first means.
6. A method of claim 1, wherein said second means is a personal computer.
7. A method of claim 1, wherein said input means of said second means is a touch sensitive screen.
8. A method of claim 1, wherein said second means is a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA).
9. A method of claim 1, wherein said second means is a mobile electronic device.
10. A method of claim 1, wherein said second means further comprises means for communicating with a mobile device.
11. A method of claim 1, wherein said communication network is a local area network.
12. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of communicating said customers over a wide area network.
13. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of communicating said customers over the Internet.
14. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of communicating said customers over a wireless network.
15. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of a customer communicating with said at least one actual physically embodied supplier over a phone line.
16. A method of claim 1, wherein said communication network is a combination of at least two of a local area network, a wide area network, a wireless network and the Internet.

17. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of a customer identifying himself/herself at said second means.
18. A method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a storage means to a customer;
 - (b) delivering said order to said storage means.
19. A method of claim 1, wherein said delivering includes a substep of an in-store picking up by a customer.
20. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of delivering items from at least one product/services suppliers at the first means to a plurality of locations.
21. A method of claim 1, wherein the step of said delivering include the substeps of:
 - (a) picking up an item from a first location selected by said customer;
 - (b) delivering said item to a second location selected by said customer for processing;
 - (c) delivering said item to a third location selected by said customer after processing.
22. A method of claim 1, wherein said order is a return order, further comprising the steps of:
 - (a) a customer using said second means to place a return order, indicating a desire to return an item back to a respective supplier at said first means;
 - (b) picking up said item from a first location indicated by said customer;
 - (c) delivering said item from said first location to a second location defined by said respective supplier.
23. A method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) said customer refusing accepting at least one item from said order upon seeing the delivered said order;
 - (b) said refused item being delivered back to its respective supplier.
24. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing means for said electronic-commerce server system to locate a customer at a second means without asking said customer to explicitly identify location of said second means.
25. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of said electronic-commerce server system changing information in said first storing means and said second storing means in accordance with said order.
26. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing means for tracking a customer's historical purchased items from said first means.
27. A method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing third storing means for said electronic-commerce server system for storing products/services promotion information associated with said at least one actual physically embodied supplier;
 - (b) communicating said promotion information to a customer at said second means over said communication network.
28. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of a customer using a shopping list to place an order at said second means, comprising the steps of:
- (a) said customer building a first list of items;
 - (b) said customer submitting said first list to said electronic-commerce server system over said communication network;

- (c) said electronic-commerce server system returning a list of items for sale at said first means;
- (d) said customer using the returned list to build a second list of items for purchase;
- (e) said customer submitting said second list of items to said electronic-commerce server system and thus completing order of said second list of items.

29. A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of a second customer using said first means to place an order from a supplier at said first means.

30. A method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining a control means at a supplier at said first means, wherein said control means may communicate with said electronic-commerce server system over said communication network;
- (b) an in-store customer checking out at least one item from said supplier with said control means;
- (c) said control means indicating to said electronic-commerce server system to change information in said first storing means in accordance with said in-store customer checking out;
- (d) said electronic-commerce server system accordingly changing information in said first storing means in accordance with said in-store customer checking out.

31. A method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining a control means at a supplier at said first means, wherein said control means may communicate with said electronic-commerce server system over said communication network;
- (b) an in-store customer providing identification information;

- (c) said in-store customer checking out at least one item from said supplier with said control means;
- (d) said control means indicating to said electronic-commerce server system to change information in said first storing means in accordance with said in-store customer checking out;
- (e) said electronic-commerce server system accordingly changing information in said first storing means in accordance with said in-store customer checking out;
- (f) said control means indicating to said electronic-commerce server system to change information in said second storing means in accordance with said in-store customer checking out and said identification information ;
- (g) said electronic-commerce server system accordingly changing information in said second storing means in accordance with said in-store customer checking out and said identification information.

32. An electronic shopping method using a portable shopping list, comprising steps of:

- (a) providing a portable means, whereby a user may store a first list;
- (b) providing a fixed means that is connected to an electronic-commerce site over a computer driven network;
- (c) providing a communication interface, whereby said first list in said portable means is transfered to said fixed means;
- (d) said user submitting said first list through said fixed means to said electronic-commerce site over said computer driven network;
- (e) said electronic-commerce site returning a list of items for sale at said electronic-commerce site to said fixed means;
- (f) said user using the returned list at said fixed means to construct a second list of items for purchase;

(g) said user submitting said second list of items at said fixed means to said electronic-commerce site and thus completing order of said second list of items.

33. An electronic shopping method of claim **32**, wherein said portable means is a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA).
34. An electronic shopping method of claim **32**, wherein said fixed means is a personal computer.
35. An electronic shopping method of claim **32**, wherein said communication interface is a means for infrared signal communication.
36. An electronic shopping method of claim **32**, wherein said communication interface is a means for radio frequency communication.